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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/663,532

09/16/2003

Paul Brent Rivers

BE1-0028US

3579

49584 7590 08/23/2007
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EXAMINER

PATEL, TAJASH D

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

3765

MAIL DATE

DELIVERY MODE

08/23/2007

PAPER

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/663,532

Applicant(s)

RIVERS ET AL.

Examiner

Tejash D. Patel

Art Unit

3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 June 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-18 and 23 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1,4,6-18 and 23 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: _____

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1, 3, 6, and 10-23 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aldridge et al. (US 6,038,700). Aldridge et al. (hereinafter Aldridge) discloses an upper body garment/jacket/coat/vest/shirt (10) including a base fabric/outer shell (26) having front and rear portions that has opening for the arms and the head and has a breast portion on the front portion, such that a first, substantially rectangular, shock absorbing protective panel (12) is attached to the left breast portion of the base fabric as shown in figure 1, which protects the upper body portion during descent from a vertical surface.

Additionally, a second, substantially rectangular, shock absorbing protective panel is attached to the right breast portion of the base in a non-overlapping configuration as shown in figure 1. Also, the garment includes a collar portion (20). The first and second panels are positioned completely over the left and right breast portion of the base fabric as shown in figure 1 and is made aramid fiber/KEVLAR, col. 4, lines 12-27. Furthermore, a pair of sleeves (14, 16) is attached to the base fabric for receiving the arms and a third protective panel defined by the liner (28) is attached to the forearm portion of each sleeve as shown in figure 5.

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to recognize that the protective panels of Aldridge made of aramid fibers can be formed from any desired strength, denier, weight, warp count, fill count, etc through routine experimentation or depending on the end use thereof.

5. Claims 8 and 9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aldridge in view of Parker et al. (US 5,247,707). Aldridge discloses the invention as set forth above except for showing loops being attached to the front portion of the garment and having the bottom of the garment being attached to a safety belt by loops.

Parker et al. (hereinafter Parker) discloses loops (16) being attached to a front portion of a garment and having the bottom of the garment being attached to a safety belt (B) by loops (14) as shown in figure 1

It would have been obvious to one skilled in the art at the time the invention was made to provide the garment of Aldridge having loops being attached to the front portion of the garment and having the bottom of the garment being attached to a safety belt by loops as taught by Parker, so that desired items can be carried by the wearer while load is evenly distributed about the body or as required for a particular application thereof.

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Response to Amendment

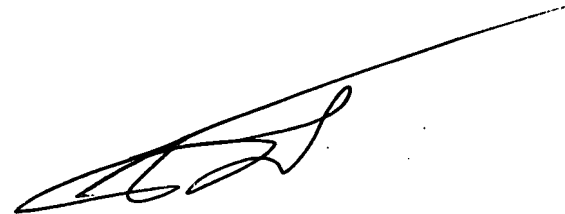
6. The amendment and arguments filed on June 27, 2007 has been considered and duly noted. In view of such, the amendment has prompted a newly discover prior art to be applied thus making this office action new-non final and the arguments are moot.

Conclusion

7. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to Applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Tejash Patel whose telephone number is (571) 272-4993. The fax phone number for this group is (571) 273-8300.

August 16, 2007



**TEJASH PATEL
PRIMARY EXAMINER**